

καὶ τοῦ Ταύρου τὴν ἀρχὴν λαβὼν τελευτᾷ πρὸς τὰ ἑῶα τῆς Ἀρμενίας, ἀπολαμβάνων μέσῃν τὴν Σωφηνήν, ἐκ θατέρου δὲ μέρους ἔχων τὴν Ἀκιλισηνὴν μεταξὺ ἰδρυμένην τοῦ Ἀντιταύρου<sup>1</sup> τε καὶ τῆς τοῦ Εὐφράτου ποταμίας,<sup>2</sup> πρὶν ἢ κάμπτειν αὐτὴν<sup>3</sup> ἐπὶ νότον. βασιλείον δὲ τῆς Σωφηνῆς Καρκαθιόκερτα. τοῦ δὲ Μασίου ὑπέρκειται πρὸς ἑῶ πολὺ κατὰ τὴν Γορδουηνήν<sup>4</sup> ὁ Νιφάτης, εἴθ' ὁ Ἄβος, ἀφ' οὗ καὶ ὁ Εὐφράτης ρεῖ καὶ ὁ Ἀράξης, ὁ μὲν πρὸς δύσιν, ὁ δὲ πρὸς ἀνατολὰς· εἴθ' ὁ Νίβαρος μέχρι τῆς Μηδίας παρατείνει.

3. Ὁ μὲν οὖν Εὐφράτης εἴρηται ὄν τρόπον ρεῖ· ὁ δὲ Ἀράξης, πρὸς τὰς ἀνατολὰς ἐνεχθεὶς μέχρι τῆς Ἀτροπατηνῆς, κάμπτει πρὸς δύσιν καὶ πρὸς ἄρκτους καὶ παραρρεῖ τὰ<sup>5</sup> Ἄζαρα πρῶτον, εἴτ' Ἀρτάξατα, πόλεις Ἀρμενίων· ἔπειτα διὰ τοῦ Ἀραξηνοῦ πεδίου πρὸς τὸ Κάσπιον ἐκδίδωσι πέλαγος.

C 528 4. Ἐν αὐτῇ δὲ τῇ Ἀρμενίᾳ πολλὰ μὲν ὄρη, πολλὰ δὲ ὄροπέδια, ἐν οἷς οὐδ' ἄμπελος φύεται ῥαδίως, πολλοὶ δ' αὐλῶνες, οἱ μὲν μέσως, οἱ δὲ καὶ σφόδρα εὐδαίμονες, καθάπερ τὸ Ἀραξηνὸν πεδίου, δι' οὗ ὁ Ἀράξης ποταμὸς ῥέων εἰς τὰ ἄκρα τῆς Ἀλβανίας καὶ τὴν Κασπίαν ἐκπίπτει θάλασσαν. καὶ μετὰ ταῦτα ἡ Σακασηνή, καὶ αὐτὴ τῇ Ἀλβανίᾳ πρόσχωρος καὶ τῷ Κύρῳ ποταμῷ, εἴθ' ἡ Γωγαρηνή· πᾶσα γὰρ ἡ χώρα

<sup>1</sup> Ἀντιταύρου, Du Theil, for Ταύρου; so Casaubon and C. Müller.

<sup>2</sup> ποταμίας, Corais from conj. of Salmasius, for μεσοποταμίας; so the later editors.

<sup>3</sup> πζ, Tzschucke, and Corais read αὐτόν.

and the Taurus and ends towards the eastern parts of Armenia, thus on one side<sup>1</sup> enclosing the middle of Sophenê,<sup>2</sup> and having on its other side Acilisenê, which is situated between the Antitaurus<sup>3</sup> and the river-land<sup>4</sup> of the Euphrates, before that river bends towards the south. The royal city of Sophenê is Carathiocerta. Above Mt. Masius, far towards the east opposite Gordyenê, lies Mt. Niphates; and then comes Mt. Abus, whence flow both the Euphrates and the Araxes, the former towards the west and the latter towards the east; and then Mt. Nibarus, which stretches as far as Media.

3. I have already described the course of the Euphrates. As for the Araxes, it first flows towards the east as far as Atropatenê, and then bends towards the west and towards the north and flows first past Azara and then past Artaxata, Armenian cities, and then, passing through the Araxene Plain, empties into the Caspian Sea.

4. In Armenia itself there are many mountains and many plateaus, in which not even the vine can easily grow; and also many valleys, some only moderately fertile, others very fertile, for instance, the Araxene Plain, through which the Araxes River flows to the extremities of Albania and then empties into the Caspian Sea. After these comes Sacasenê, this too bordering on Albania and the Cyrus River; and then comes Gogarenê. Indeed, the whole of

<sup>1</sup> See critical note.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* "enclosing Sophenê in a valley between itself (the Antitaurus) and the Taurus" (II. 12. 4).

<sup>3</sup> See critical note.

<sup>4</sup> See critical note.

<sup>4</sup> Γορδουηνήν, Corais, for Γορδουληνήν Ε, Γοργοδιλήν ζ, Γοργοδουληνήν other MSS.

<sup>5</sup> τὰ, the editors, for τήν.

αὕτη καρποῖς τε καὶ τοῖς ἡμέροις δένδρεσι καὶ τοῖς ἀειθαλέσι πληθύνει, φέρει δὲ καὶ ἐλαίαν. ἔστι δὲ καὶ ἡ Φαυνηή<sup>1</sup> τῆς Ἀρμενίας ἐπαρχία καὶ ἡ Κωμισσηνή καὶ Ὀρχιστηνή, πλείστην ἱππέειαν παρέχουσα· ἡ δὲ Χορζηνή καὶ Καμβυσηνή προσβορώταται εἰσι καὶ νιφόβολοι μάλιστα, συνάπτουσαι τοῖς Καυκασίοις ὄρεσι καὶ τῇ Ἰβηρία καὶ τῇ Κολχίδι· ὅπου φασὶ κατὰ τὰς ὑπερβολὰς τῶν ὀρῶν πολλάκις καὶ συνοδίας ὅλας<sup>2</sup> ἐν τῇ χιόνι καταπίνεσθαι νιφετῶν γινομένων ἐπὶ πλέον· ἔχειν δὲ καὶ Βακτηρίας πρὸς τοὺς τοιοῦτους κινδύνους<sup>3</sup> παρεξαίροντας εἰς τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν ἀναπνοῆς τε χάριν καὶ τοῦ διαμηνύειν τοῖς ἐπιούσιν, ὥστε βοηθείας τυγχάνειν, ἀνορύττεσθαι καὶ σώζεσθαι. ἐν δὲ τῇ χιόνι βώλους πήγνυσθαι φασὶ κοίλας περιεχοῦσας χρηστὸν ὕδωρ ὡς ἐν χιτῶνι, καὶ ζῶα δὲ ἐν αὐτῇ γεννᾶσθαι· καλεῖ δὲ σκώληκας Ἀπολλωνίδης, Θεοφάνης δὲ θρίπας· κὰν τούτοις ἀπολαμβάνεσθαι χρηστὸν ὕδωρ, περισχισθέντων<sup>4</sup> δὲ τῶν χιτῶνων πίνεσθαι· τὴν δὲ γένεσιν τῶν ζώων τοιαύτην εἰκάζουσιν, οἷαν τὴν τῶν κωνώπων ἐκ τῆς ἐν τοῖς μετάλλοις φλογὸς καὶ τοῦ φεψάλου.<sup>5</sup>

5. Ἱστοροῦσι δὲ τὴν Ἀρμενίαν, μικρὰν πρότερον οὔσαν, αὐξηθῆναι διὰ τῶν περὶ Ἀρταξίαν καὶ Ζαριάδριν,<sup>6</sup> οἱ πρότερον μὲν ἦσαν Ἀντιόχου

<sup>1</sup> Φαυνηή (Φαυνηή *σιωxx*) seems corrupt; perhaps Φαυνηνή (Tzschucke, Corais) is right (cp. Φαυνηίτις below), if not Φασιανή (see Kramer's note).

<sup>2</sup> The words τῶν ὀρῶν after ὅλας are omitted by *gxy* and Corais. Strabo probably wrote ἐμπόρων (conj. of Corais) or ὀδοιπόρων (conj. of Meineke).

<sup>3</sup> Meineke inserts *ās* after κινδύνους.

this country abounds in fruits and cultivated trees and evergreens, and even bears the olive. There is also Phauenê,<sup>1</sup> a province of Armenia, and Comisenê, and Orehistenê, which last furnishes the most cavalry. Chorzenê and Cambysenê are the most northerly and the most subject to snows, bordering on the Caucasian mountains and Iberia and Colchis. It is said that here, on the passes over the mountains, whole caravans are often swallowed up in the snow when unusually violent snowstorms take place, and that to meet such dangers people carry staves, which they raise to the surface of the snow in order to get air to breathe and to signify their plight to people who come along, so as to obtain assistance, be dug out, and safely escape. It is said that hollow masses of ice form in the snow which contain good water, in a coat of ice as it were; and also that living creatures breed in the snow (Apollonides<sup>2</sup> calls these creatures "scoleces"<sup>3</sup> and Theophanes<sup>4</sup> "thripes"<sup>5</sup>); and that good water is enclosed in these hollow masses which people obtain for drinking by slitting open the coats of ice; and the genesis of these creatures is supposed to be like that of the gnats which spring from the flames and sparks at mines.

5. According to report, Armenia, though a small country in earlier times, was enlarged by Artaxias and Zariadris, who formerly were generals of

<sup>1</sup> See critical note.      <sup>2</sup> See Vol. III, p. 234, foot-note 2.

<sup>3</sup> "Worms" or "larvae."      <sup>4</sup> See foot-note on 11. 2. 2.

<sup>5</sup> Wood-worms.

<sup>4</sup> περισχισθέντων E *Epit.*, περισχεθέντων other MSS.

<sup>5</sup> φεψάλου E *Epit.*, πετάλλου Dh, πετάλου other MSS.

<sup>6</sup> Ζαριάδριν, Tyrwhitt, for Ζαριάδην; so the later editors.

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